

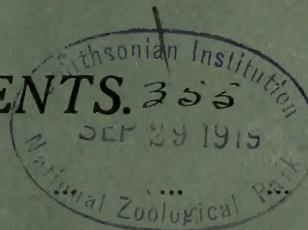
HAMLYN'S MENAGERIE MAGAZINE.

No. 4.—Vol. 5.

AUGUST, 1919.

Price One Shilling.

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JOHN D. HAMLYN

221, St. George's Street, London Docks, E. 1.

Ten minutes from Mark Lane and Aldgate Stations.

Fifteen minutes from London Bridge Station.

Buses pass Leman Street, Whitechapel, from all parts thence five minutes walk.

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TERMS.—NOTICE.—All goods are sold for prompt cash, and Customers must take all risk from time of leaving my establishment. Stock once sold cannot be taken back. **TELEPHONE.**—Orders can be received on telephone, 4360 AVENUE from any part of Great Britain any time day and night. **LETTERS.**—Are answered by return of post, and orders executed same day as received. Full name and address with every communication. **DELIVERY.**—Stock is generally delivered direct to the various London Railway Termini but no particular train can be guaranteed. **PURCHASING.**—I am always open to purchase any duplicates or other stock. Kindly make offers for same

Arrivals of Wild Animals in Great Britain.

Commencing January, 1919.

COMPILED BY JOHN D. HAMLYN.

BOSTOCK—

May, 1919. 1 Leopard, with few small African animals.

HAMLYN—

February. 1 Mandrill.
3 Monkeys.

March. 4 Baboons.
1 Serval.

1 Cinet.
13 Pandas.

1 Cat.
400 Monkeys.

April. 4 Sea Lions.
May. 2 Zebras.

6 Porcupines.
1 Hunting Dog.

2 Dingoes.
1 Thar.

8 Baboons.
2 Meercats.

June. 1 Hyæna.
15 Rhesus.

1 Bonnet.
1 Malabar Squirrel.
1 Hamadrias Baboon.
21 Penguins.

July. 8 Seals, 11 Mynahs, 120 Avadavats, 1 Squirrel Monkey, 50 Rattlesnakes, 51 Bull Snakes, 20 Corals, 16 Testaceous Snakes, 120 Imported Australian Finches, 3 Black Swans, 16 imported African Finches, 2 Blue Budgerigars, 1 Monster Egyptian Mongoose, 1 Squirrel Monkey, 1 Vervet, 1 Ringtail, 6 Polar Bear Cubs direct from The North Cape.

For arrivals (August) see "The Trade."

WORLD'S ZOOLOGICAL—

January. Nil.

February. Nil.

March. Nil.

April. Nil.

May. Nil.

June. Nil.

July. Nil.

August. Nil.

THESE ARE THE ACTUAL IMPORTATIONS.

JOHN D. HAMLYN

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Hamlyn's Menagerie Magazine.

EDITED BY JOHN D. HAMLYN

No. 4.—Vol. 5.

LONDON, AUGUST, 1919.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

NOTICE.

The subscription for Vol. V., 1919—20, is 10/-, post free. All subscriptions commence with this number. Yearly subscriptions only received. Specimen copies can be sent post free on receipt of twelve penny stamps. Subscribers not receiving their Magazine should communicate at once with the Editor.

All letters to be addressed in future:—

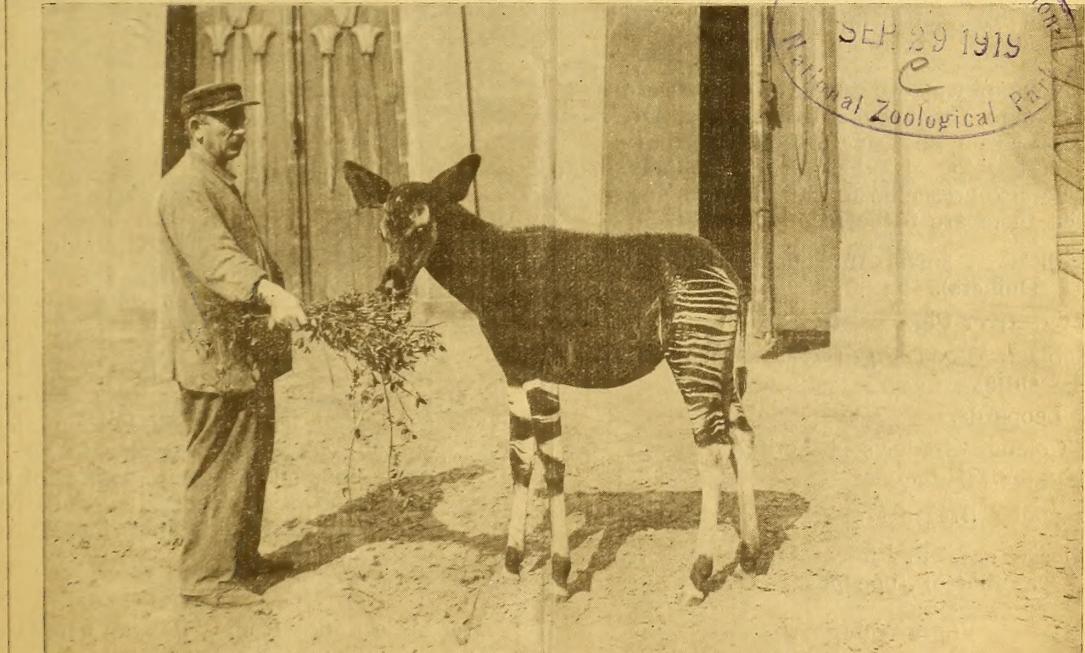
JOHN D. HAMLYN,
221, St. George's Street, London Docks, E 1,
London.

Telephone, Avenue 4360.

Telegrams, Hamlyn, London Docks, London.

The Editor will be pleased to receive sporting articles and reminiscences, as well as items of news and reports of sport from all parts of the world. If stamped directed envelope be enclosed, the contributions will be returned if unsuitable.

All Subscribers in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland and Holland, who have not received their usual numbers, are requested to communicate at once with the Editor.



THE OKAPI.

THE OKAPI.

By JOHN D. HAMILYN.

The arrival of a young live Okapi in Europe is an event which deserves special notice.

Mr. Lhoest, the Director of The Societe Royale de Zoologie, Antwerp, writes as follows under date 13th August :—

"I have pleasure of enclosing you a photo of the young live Okapi we received in perfect condition.

OKAPI. First living Okapi imported in Europe. The animal arrived safe and in good condition on Saturday, 9th of August by s.s. Anversville, and was presented as a gift to the Zoological Gardens of Antwerp by the District-Commander Landeghem and his wife, Mrs. Landeghem.

It is a nice specimen, very tame and eating the usual food of ruminants, such as carrots, clover, etc.

The scientific zoological world is indebted to Mrs. Landeghem of this sensational importation; this lady, indeed, received the young animal from hunting natives at Buta (Uele, Congo), when it was only one or two days old and by her attentive and intelligent daily cares, she succeeded in bringing up the Okapi.

The Okapi was brought over to Antwerp by the Congo Territorial Administrator, Dr. Georges Lebrun who, at the same time, imported a big lot of other Congo animals, which he also presented to the Antwerp Zoo. Between them are to be mentioned :—

12 different small Antelopes (principally Duikers).

3 red River Pigs.

1 black Wood Pig (*Hylochoerus ituriensis*).

2 Leopards.

2 Colobus Monkeys—beautiful.

1 Patas Monkey.

1 young Brazza Monkey..

Please note the latest Magazine I received was that of June past.

Yours truly,

The Director,

M. LH'OEST."

"The Times" gives the following notice :—

"The Antwerp correspondent of the 'African World' states that, amongst a great collection of wild animals just brought by Dr. Lebrun from the Congo for the depleted Zoological Gardens, is a live Okapi, in fine condition, the gift of Mme. Landeghem, who reared it. It is the first live Okapi brought to Europe.

It have been known for some time past that Mme. Landeghem, whose husband is in the Congo Medical Service, has had a young okapi in her possession for nearly three years, at her husband's quarters, several hundred miles above Boma, on the Congo. Photographs received in Europe showed the young animal feeding out of the hand of its owner. The Zoological Society of London had arranged to purchase this animal for a large sum of money, and has been expecting daily to hear of its arrival at Falmouth. Notwithstanding the disappointment to the London Society, in whose scientific proceedings the okapi was first named, figured, and described, it must be regarded as proper that the owner, a Belgian lady, should have presented the first living example of the rarest of living mammals to the chief zoological collection of her native country.

"The okapi is the survivor of a distant ancestor of the giraffes. An adult stands about 5ft. high, and although it has the general shape of a giraffe its neck is relatively shorter and its forelegs are not so high in proportion to the hindquarters. The sides of the face are light fawn, and the general coloration of the body is a dark purplish shade. The most striking character is that the rump and the upper parts of the legs are transversely striped with black and white. When Sir Harry Johnston obtained and sent to the Zoological Society the first news of the discovery of a new large mammal the specimen actually sent was a bandolier cut by natives from the hide. The animal to which it belonged was inferred to be an unknown species of zebra, and the name bestowed on it was accordingly *Equus johnstoni*. In 1901 Sir Harry was able to send a complete skin, and the real affinities of the creature were ascertained. It is a native of the Semliki Forest, and haunts low undergrowth and swamps."

Here is a notice from a Belgian paper :—

"This new acquisition (says the 'Action Nationale' of Antwerp) is certainly a strange animal, occupying a place in the ruminant

order between the gazelle and giraffe—nearer the latter than the former—with shorter hind legs than fore, and strongly-formed head, which at first sight appears all mouth, surmounted by a cranial hump, and flanked by two very mobile ears of disproportionate size. A thick, blue tongue, which can compass the entire head, allows it to grasp food at a good distance, and also to moisten its big, dreamy eyes, which protrude like those of a lobster. Its skin is soft, silky as an otter, and of the same colour, except for a patch of pure white on the breast, and stripes on the thighs like a zebra. It grazes on the leaves of the hibiscus and sweet potato. This fodder, having run out on the ship, it accepted willingly, though with some delicacy, the bread offered by passengers, who took the greatest interest in its welfare. Of delightful docility, it followed its masters, who reared it since it was a few days old, quite meekly, as though it fully appreciated their care of it in Lower Uelle in its feeding-bottle days. Nevertheless, train-shaking and tethering upset it, and, owing to shocks and lack of green fodder, it pined away to such an extent that, had the sea journey been prolonged, it would not have survived. It is satisfactory to know that it is now safely lodged in our Antwerp Zoo "in clover." Dr. Lebrun, the well-known explorer, who, with great efforts and extraordinary care, managed to bring it to Europe, deserves the praise and thanks of the scientific world, to which its arrival is an event of no small importance. This will be better understood when we state that the zoological section of the British Museum offered £10,000 for the phenomenal specimen which, however, will remain with us—a glory of our Antwerp Garden."

I cannot understand "The Times" when its states that the Zoological Society of London had arranged to purchase this animal. I knew for months past this animal was destined for the Zoological Gardens, Antwerp.

The Belgian Authorities will take very good care that very few Okapis will be allowed to other countries. It would have been possible to have sent a special representative to the Congo for this animal, but then a journey to the East Coast would have had to be taken.

The description given by the "Action Nationale" is very interesting.

I do not for one moment believe that the British Museum offered £10,000 for this animal.

That would indeed have been a ridiculous figure to pay.

Other Okapis are now bound to arrive. The opening up of the Okapi region will enable the Congo hunters to capture other specimens, and, within a few years the price will be considerably less than £1,000 (one thousand pounds). The various Zoological Societies will be enabled to profit by the experience gained by the Antwerp Gardens over this, the first arrival.

It is a question whether this interesting stranger will survive a hard winter. Some years back when in the Congo region it was my ambition to be the first to introduce the Okapi to Europe. I am indeed disappointed. Still, I wish the little fellow a long life in that famous establishment, the Antwerp Zoological Gardens.

THE TRADE.

By JOHN D. HAMILYN.

The good steamship "Malakuta" arrived off Southend on the 13th August with the following stock:—

- 4 baby female Elephants, 4ft., $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft., 5ft. and $5\frac{1}{2}$ ft. high.
- 2 adult Tigers, females.
- 1 Tiger Cub, male.
- 1 Black Leopard.
- 1 Himalayan Bear.
- 120 Rhesus Monkeys.
- 1 large Pigtail.
- 1 Japanese Ape.
- 22 exceptionally large Python Snakes.
- 6 Indian Squirrels.
- 1300 mixed small Birds.
- 20 very large Nepaulese Minahs.
- 43 Indian Shamahs.
- 22 Parrots.
- 150 Thibetan Birds of great rarity.

There being no berth ready for the steamer in the Tilbury Docks, and hearing it would be quite a week before she docked, I determined to clear all stock possible overside; with that end in view I chartered a tug from Messrs. Watkins, and on the following morning, August 14th, I proceeded to the steamer and took delivery of twenty-nine cases. This proved a very expensive undertaking. The loading at Tilbury pier was a serious problem. They were sent to Fenchurch Street Station in three trains, for only a certain space could be allotted for this exceptional traffic by each train. There were no casualties en route.

The railway officials were very attentive and obliging.

Just to give my readers some slight idea of the cost of moving live stock, I may mention that the expenses on this day alone was £35 (thirty-five pounds). Still I had my valuable birds home. The 4 Elephants, 3 Tigers, 1 Panther, could only be cleared in dock, this taking place on Saturday, 23rd August.

The losses on the journey were very slight. My native attendant performed his duty well. He is a devoted keeper. The expenses of the entire consignment were tremendous, considerably over £1,000 alone. I believe in paying everyone liberally for services rendered.

Mr. A. E. Pickard, of Glasgow, was again the first to purchase from this consignment. He adopted the business-like plan of telegraphing—

"Send on twenty Monkeys cheque posted."

The Monkeys left thirty minutes after receipt of telegram, the cheque arrived in the morning, the whole transaction being settled in Mr. Pickard's usual expeditious manner. Oh! how I wish all my customers were Pickards! My life would be prolonged indefinitely. It is only fair here to state that the representative of Messrs. Derry and Toms, of Kensington, met the steamer in the Tilbury Docks and purchased a four-foot Elephant—the smallest of the four.

One Tiger went to Manchester, another to Halifax, and the third is going to Copenhagen. The majority of the larger birds are sold. Messrs. Fulljames, Frostick, Allen Silver, with others, all pronounced the collection as the finest collection of Indian Birds ever imported.

The Minahs are very large, and are deserving the attention of every Amateur. Some most interesting birds arrived, one of which is deserving special mention, the Yellow-naped Woodpecker; there was also a Pitta, some Jerdons, Honeysuckers, Tits, Flycatchers, Redstarts, etc., etc.

There was also on board the "Malakuta" four Giant Tortoises from the Seychelles, two of which have gone to the Zoo.

Mr. Wesley T. Page received a small lot of Avadavats, Zostehops and Rails.

This article on The Trade would not be perfect without attention being drawn to an advertisement emanating from a dealer in East Street, Old Kent Road, in "Cage Birds," August 23rd, page 117. Whether Botterill's imagination has run riot, or "Cage Birds" has misprinted some of the figures, I do not know, but this I do say, that in the forty years I have been in business, I have never seen one to equal it. I will mention some of the items:—

50 pairs Indian Peafowl.
3600 Green Parrots.
200 Civet Cats.
100 Malabar Squirrels.
51 Spotted Deer.
50 ONLY Wanderoo Monkeys.

There, gentle reader, are some of the items. Does the advertiser know how many boxes the above goods would require? And 51 Spotted Deer! What is the object of this advertisement? Who prompted it? Anyway, if Botterill, of East Street, imports on Bill of Lading in the regular way of trade, in ONE consignment, only one specimen of each lot mentioned, I will give £10 to the London Hospital. This consignment to arrive any time this year. "Cage Birds" can hold the money. I trust all purchasers will wait their arrival before sending money.



FATE OF THE ADDO ELEPHANTS.

By JOHN D. HAMILYN.

"Hamlyn's Menagerie Magazine" claims to be the first Magazine to draw the attention of the British Public to these unfortunate creatures. The various notices in this Magazine from time to time have been noticed by the leading London papers from "The Times" downwards. Still I am sorry to say their fate is settled. To my mind, they have done no wrong, they were in possession of the Forest before the advent of the White Man, and as usual in this world, the weakest goes to the wall. They demand the right to live. They asked not the white man to steal their primaevial forests. Being an ardent lover of everything wild I sympathise with the loss of the Addo Bush Elephants.

A most interesting article has just appeared in "The African World." I cannot do better than give it in extenso:—

WHY EXTERMINATION WAS DECREED.

The elephants of the Addo Bush are unique. They are the last survivors of the great herds who once roamed the forests of the Cape. When their brethren retreated north before the advance of the white man's civilisation they alone of all the troops stood their ground, secure in the impenetrable extent of thorn country lying some 30 miles from Algoa Bay.

Here they were able to defy the march of civilisation, and here they remain to this day. Now and again white men enter the Bush at the risk of encountering a swift and terrible death, and lay one of the mammoths low. And now and again the elephants reverse the order and shock-

ing tragedies are enacted in which the man figures as the victim. These latter events have made the Addo Bush notorious; so much so that few will enter it, notwithstanding the teeming game within its heart. Its quality is best gauged from the remark of that greatest of hunters, the late Frederick Courteney Selous, after he had spent a day struggling through the fearful barriers it presents to confound the hunter. "When I go hunting," he said, "I like the odds to be on the side of the hunter; not all on the side of the game." And he went on to say that the man who went hunting therein for pleasure was tired of life.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUSH.

To-day writes the Port Elizabeth correspondent of the "Cape Times," it is estimated that there are from 150 to 200 elephants located in the Bush. The Bush itself is roughly about forty miles long by twenty miles wide. It lies just to the east of the Sundays River. In some parts the thorn bush is fairly scattered, so that it is easy to move about, but great areas of it are composed of dense growth of mimosa and prickly pear, inextricably bound together by strong creepers. To force one's way through it the assistance of an axe is needed. The bush grows from 8 to 15 feet in height, with the result that while the man, laboriously forcing his way along, or threading tortuous pathways which end in a cul-de-sac, can see nothing beyond the limit of the bushes on either hand, the wily elephant, by reason of his superior height, can keep easy watch on his movements and bide his time for a rush if he is in a bellicose mood.

FATAL LAPSE OF MEMORY.

It is not known how many natives have been done to death by rogue elephants (vicious bulls who have been forced by their brothers to leave the herd and become outlaws), but in recent years at least three Europeans have lost their lives at their hands. In only one case was the man actually hunting the elephants. This was the late Mr. Attrill, whose farm encroached on the Bush and who had suffered greatly through the depredations of the huge animals. One day he arranged with two friends to form an expedition and enter the Bush for the purpose of driving the herd from that particular locality. Starting early, they had downed a bull elephant by eight o'clock in the morning.

Later, Attrill followed a wounded cow and was suddenly confronted by the enraged brute in full charge. Taking quick aim, he pulled the trigger, but he had forgotten to release the safety catch, and in another moment he was in the grip of the animal's trunk, and had been dashed senseless to the ground. His end was horrible in the extreme, the infuriated cow literally treading him into the earth.

In the other two cases where Europeans lost their lives they were not hunting the beasts, but were caught unawares by rogue bulls and wantonly crushed to death. In the case of Vermaak, he was out hunting hares, and had only a shotgun loaded with No. 6 shot with which to protect himself. He was tracked and murdered by Blinkvoet, a notorious rogue who subsequently met his death at the muzzle of a set-gun. Pienaar fell victim to a rogue at night. He and his two brothers foolishly entered the Bush in the dark, and when the huge bull charged it was certain death for one of the party. Pienaar climbed into a thorn bush, but was dragged forth, flung to earth, and savaged in a frightful manner.

TWO MIRACULOUS ESCAPES.

Other men have had wonderful escapes. There is no more famous Addo hunter than Nat Harvey, and even he has on more than one occasion nearly paid for his intrepidity with his life. One such experience was when on a certain day he passed around a thick bush to find himself face to face with an elephant. There were not many yards separating them, and the mammoth charged on the instant. When Nat Harvey pulled trigger but seven yards stood between him and death. His shot went true, but the tremendous momentum of the onrushing beast carried it on. A portion of its head struck the hunter and flung him dazed to earth. When he recovered his scattered wits he found himself lying at the side of his prostrate victim.

FARMERS' GRIEVOUS LOSSES.

These incidents, all of which are easily verified, should give some indications of the terrors awaiting the unwary hunter in the fastnesses of the Addo Bush. And because of them and of the enormous damage done on the surrounding farms by the elephants, it has been decreed by the Cape Administrator that the Addo elephants are to be exterminated. They cause damage in two ways. An elephant is above such trifles as a wire fence. Hence, when in his promiscuous travels he happens upon one, he tears up the posts and flings the wire to one side. One farmer alone estimates that he has been obliged to replace 250 miles of destroyed fencing, and he avers that lately the animals have taken to digging his anchor posts up by the roots.

The more serious source of damage occurs in the dry season, when the water holes within the Bush which usually supply the elephants with drinking water, fail. It is then their custom to wander at large in search of water. Long custom has given them a knowledge of every dam on every farm. Thus a herd numbering, perhaps, seventy animals, will descend on a farm at night, wreck all the fencing en route, and completely empty the only dam on which the farmer's cattle

can rely for drink to see them through the drought. The result is that his cattle die of thirst and he suffers grievous losses.

The attitude of the cattle themselves towards the elephants is eminently respectful. When they hear the approach of the mammoths they amble off to a safe distance. Nevertheless, now and again, a farmer will find that he has lost a valuable animal, generally a bull. On one occasion an Addo farmer had a specially imported bull grazing with his herd. A troop of elephants hove in sight, and all but the imported bull moved off. This fellow stood his ground. He had never seen an elephant, and he didn't care a hang for them. When the troop approached within such distance as he choose to consider constituted an insult to his aristocratic lineage, he lowered his head with a roar, and dashed straight for the flank of the nearest invader. The elephant was quick to accept the challenge, and, swinging around, met the bull with his tusks. The bull, when found the following morning, was horribly gored.

A BIG TASK.

The task of ridding the Bush of these dangerous beasts has been entrusted to Major Pretorius, one of the most famous of the present-day big game hunters. In the course of the twenty-three years which this remarkable man has spent in Central and East Africa he has killed no fewer than 339 elephants, excluding all other types of game. He has been charged repeatedly, and has had many narrow escapes as the average man has disappointments. In the East African campaign he became famous for his intelligence work. He was the terror of the German forces, and he was paid the compliment of having a big price put on his head. They nearly got him once. They shot him through both legs, and he escaped by jumping into the Rovuma River. Thereafter he discovered the location of the cruiser Konigsberg for the British naval authorities, and accomplished sundry other dare-devil tasks, which materially assisted in driving Von Lettow southwards. The C.M.G. and D.S.O. with bar testify to the value of his services.

AN ENCOUNTER AT DUSK.

To him has been assigned the matter of dealing with the Addo elephants. He recently arrived on the scene, accompanied by his wife, herself a daring huntress, and a taxidermist assigned to the party by the South African Museum (Mr. Drury). Their camp is located about a mile and a half from Addo Station, within the outskirts of the Bush. Up to now he has contented himself with reconnoitring the bush, and ascertaining the lay of the land, although he has had his initial shot at the elephants, inflicting a mortal wound on a young bull.

For the next month or two Major Pretorius will be occupied in cutting paths through the densest portions of the bush to the various hills from which the movements of the three herds which are known to exist may be watched. When this task is completed he will commence the serious business of systematically hunting the elephants and shooting them off. And if any fuller conception of the magnitude of his commission is necessary it should be found in his estimate that it will take him two years of hard work before he can claim to have disposed of the last of the elephants.

When that day comes Major Pretorius will be able to claim the huge individual bag of over five hundred African elephants.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Just at the moment of going to press, my Agent in Cape Town cables that he has secured one young male Elephant, the only one so far captured in the Addo Bush.

This little fellow should prove very interesting to Zoological Science, and would also be a tremendous attraction to any Gardens, Circus or Menagerie.

Due notice of its arrival will be announced in the Daily Press. Price on application.

A NOTABLE ARRIVAL OF FOREIGN BIRDS.

NEARLY 2,000 IN ONE CONSIGNMENT.

No section of bird-keepers has been so hampered in its hobby during the past five years as the foreign bird section. Canaries and British birds are home productions, and although thousands of Canary breeders answered the call of their country and many, alas! have given their lives in its defence, still there were those remaining to carry on. British bird keeping is in a degree dependent upon the catchers, and the shortage of supply has been felt to the detriment of the classes at such shows as have been held. The foreign bird section, however, is almost entirely supported by imports, for the few foreign birds that are bred in this country are mostly in the hands of non-exhibitors.

As a consequence, while the Canary section at our shows has maintained a vitality marvellous in the circumstances, and the British bird section has survived in a degree, foreign birds have been conspicuous by their absence, and anything which

will tend to reinstate this most attractive section of our exhibitions is to be welcomed. We were glad, therefore, to receive last week from Mr. J. D. Hamlyn a telegram which read, "Come down immediately inspect wonderful collection of Indian birds just arrived."

And a truly wonderful collection it was. A thousand Avadavats in two enormous store-cages, in which they had plenty of room to move about, was a sight indeed, and one which in itself repaid the trouble of the journey to Ratcliffe Highway, now called St. George Street. In another cage were thirty or more Zosterops, "Indian White Eyes," all in perfect condition, and 20 Larger Hill Mynahs in an immense bamboo crate looked, collectively and individually, as though they had been domesticated for years. Spice Birds and Tri-coloured Mannikins were there by the hundreds, and in separate cages were scores of Shammas and a hundred or so of other Indian birds, many of which had us cornered in attempting to give a name to them. There were Miltava Flycatchers, Honeysuckers, strange-looking Jays and Shrikes, and many which were certainly making a first appearance in our country. Every one of these was in a cage about a foot cube, and all were perfectly clean and comfortable after their long journey.

The whole consignment is a credit to the packers, the care-takers en route, and to the enterprising importer, Mr. Hamlyn, and we cordially wish him a profitable conclusion to his courageous venture. Incidentally, all difficulties of the final stage of the journey, that from Tilbury to St. George Street, were overcome by the employment of a special tug, and this ensured that, once the birds had reached the Thames there was no delay in providing them with a solid resting place after their long voyage in the s.s. Malakuta. With his usual business acumen, Mr. Hamlyn had advertised in "Cage Birds" the home-coming of the consignment, and more than £300 worth were sold on arrival. On the first day there were anxious representatives of London firms asking for prices in bulk.—"Cage Birds."

CORRESPONDENCE.

National Zoological Gardens of South Africa,
Pretoria, Transvaal,

10th July, 1919.

The Editor,
Menagerie Magazine.

Sir,

A Mule Mother.

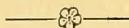
With regard to the correspondence in your paper of Jan. 1918, I beg to state that the mare

mule referred to therein and her foal are still working in the above Institution. No attempt was made to breed from her by my predecessor, and my experiments were without result. Perhaps she was too old when I took her over in 1912.

Yours faithfully,

DIRECTOR,

NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.



GENERAL NOTES.

By JOHN D. HAMILYN.

THAT I have received the following letter from Mr. J. A. Jordan, World's Zoological Trading Company:—

"Dear Mr. Hamlyn,

I have just been reading through your Magazine of July and find it extremely interesting. I quite agree with you that the shipping people are very difficult to deal with. I notice you have got the consignment of animals as nil of the World's Zoological Co., but seeing the Company has only been running for a few months whereas you have been in the trade a good many years your attack is not exactly sporting. However, I trust in the next month's issue you will be able to insert 200 animals in stead of nil.

You might also state Mr. Johnson lost his claim against the Company.

Trusting Mrs. Hamlyn and yourself are both keeping well and that business is flourishing."

I shall be only too pleased to insert the arrival of 200 animals. Perhaps Mr. Jordan will send me particulars by post.

THAT I was rather surprised to see a German advertisement in "The Field," August 16th. Considering the "Lest we Forget" articles which appeared during the war advocating the boycott of the Huns it certainly surprised me to see the first German animal advertisement in such a paper as "The Field."

THAT the Zoological Gardens report the birth of two Pandas. This as a very unusual occurrence and I trust to have the pleasure of seeing them shortly.

THAT at the monthly meeting of the Zoological Society of London, the report of the Council for

the month of June showed that there had been 355 additions to the Society's menageries. Amongst these, special attention was directed to two cheetahs from Berbera, Somaliland; two pandas, born in the menagerie on June 6; a collection of birds from Gambia, West Africa, consisting of fire-finches, quail finches, weavers, and two black-shouldered kites, presented by Dr. E. Hopkinson, D.S.O.; two Bateleur eagles from Berbera, presented by G. F. Archer, C.M.G.; and two Glancour gulls, hatched in the menagerie.

The number of visitors during June had been 214,769. During the year the total had amounted to 672,431, and the money received for admission at the gates, £18,167; showing an increase of 352,148 visitors and £10,973 receipts as compared with the corresponding period in 1918. The number of Fellows elected or re-admitted during the year had been 179, being an increase of 74, as compared with the corresponding period of 1918.

THAT the following cuttings have been sent me from South Africa:—

"The Free State Provincial Council last week referred to the Executive Committee for consideration petitions from Boshof and Jacobsdal urging the compulsory destruction of vermin. Mr. J. J. Jacobs, in submitting the motion, dwelt on the gravity of the position, pointing out that during the last two years no less than 9,816 jackals had been killed, which meant at least that over 19,000 sheep had been killed. Yet there were persons who left the destruction of vermin to others, and gave no assistance to those who killed the vermin. The only way of destroying all vermin was to get the co-operation of the farmers, and to do this they should make the destruction compulsory. Their other enemy was the "rooikat," of whom they had killed over 300 last year. These could average five sheep each, and they could therefore estimate the farmers' losses due to vermin."

"Our attention (says the 'Northern News') has been drawn to the very important part played by wild ostriches in connection with gal-lamziekte since Sir Arnold Theiler announced the cause of this insidious disease. It is reported that there are thousands of these wild birds scattered over Bechuanaland, and they are especially numerous in the Kalahari and western portion of the district. We are not aware if it is generally known that young birds have been seen in herds of 150, mothered only by a couple of old hens, the young hens being driven off by the older birds as soon as the chicks are hatched. It is therefore easily realised how the birds in-

crease, especially where they are not often disturbed in the less populated parts of the country. One farmer recently informed us that a mob of wild birds broke the fences of his camp, and quite a number were killed in the wire. Subsequently, he found that his cattle had been feeding off these decayed bones and meat, with the result that gal-lamziekte soon made its appearance. Wild ostriches are 'protected' by Act of Parliament in this area at present, and now that farmers know the danger that stock runs through eating putrid meat and bones, they should urge Government to have the protection removed, or else call upon the Government to remove the birds from their property if they wish them preserved."

THAT a Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of Lord Rothschild to establish a memorial to the late Frederick Du Cane Godman. I wish it every success. Subscriptions can be sent to Mr. C. E. Fagan, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, S.W.

THAT the Tropical Zoological Station in British Guiana founded by the New York Zoological Society before the war has been re-opened after two years' suspension. A new laboratory and dormitory have been built in the Government penal settlement at Katabo, a few miles below the rapids of the Mazaruni—a convenient place for the study of jungle and river life. Mr. William Beebe, formerly Curator of Birds in the Bronx Zoological Park, is director. The Government of British Guiana have given liberal help to the station.

THAT "John Daniel," the famous Gorilla, is still doing well. He is lent to the Gardens on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays by his owner, Major Penny. He is indeed a remarkable animal.

THAT it was reported at yesterday's meeting of the Zoological Society of London that last month 168,758 visitors were admitted to the Zoo, as increase of 79,819 on July of last year. From January 1 to the end of July 841,189 visitors paid gate-money amounting to £23,110, against £13,813 received from 428,967 in the corresponding period in 1918. During the year 217 Fellows were elected and readmitted, an increase of 99 on the previous year.

The Zoological Society and Mr. P. Chalmers Mitchell, the secretary, entertained yesterday a party of 400 children, half of whom were cripples. This was the sixth annual visit arranged by the Mile End and Stepney Cripples Parlour (John Pound Mission), and another example of Sir John Kirk's work in brightening the lives of poor crippled little ones.

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